

Message Text

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64

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124920

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK, RANGOON FROM STATE
JUNE 12:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT

REFS: (A) RANGOON 1581 (B) RANGOON 1565

1. DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS GUB PROPOSED REVISION OF DRAFT AGREEMENT ON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. WE AGREE THAT THIS PREFERRED WORDING WILL GIVE US ACCESS TO THE KIND OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO SATISFY LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MONITORING OF THIS NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.
 2. GUB'S DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH AGREEMENT IS MATCHED BY ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OPERATING AIRCRAFT. WE ARE GRATIFIED AT THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE AND, IN REPLY TO GUB'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, WE HAVE ASKED (WITH NO REFERENCE TO BURMA PROGRAM) BELL, U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND AND U.S. AVIATION SYSTEMS COMMAND TO SUPPLY NEEDED MATERIALS (PARA 9, REF B). THEY WILL BE FORWARDED BY CABLE OR AIR POUCH AS APPROPRIATE UPON RECEIPT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SET OF TECHNICAL ORDERS (1-6) MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH USOM BANGKOK AND PROBABLY CAN BE OBTAINED
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WITHIN RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, IF DESIRED BY EMBASSY ON

EXPEDITIOUS BASIS.

3. USOM ADVISOR TO THAI NATIONAL POLICE AIR DIVISION, RUDY HALL, JUST RETURNED FROM BANGKOK ON WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT, HAS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND BACKGROUND ON

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THESE AIRCRAFT. HE HAS POSED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT GUB SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN PREPARATION OF PIOC FOR ORDERING OF HELICOPTERS. WE PLAN TO FORWARD THESE TO RANGOON AND, IN MEANTIME, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO IDEA OF SENDING HALL AT CONVENIENT TIME TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF PIOC PREPARATION.

4. WHILE NEED FOR FURTHER TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS APPEARS NECESSARY, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT SIGNING OF AMENDED DRAFT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DELAYED. WE PREFER THAT ORIGINAL OFFER OF SIX AIRCRAFT (MADE IN EMBASSY NOTE TO GUB ON DECEMBER 1, 1973) BE CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN MAKING A COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY TWELVE IN THIS FIRST TRANCHE, AS SUGGESTED PARA 4, REF A. PROVISION IN AGREEMENT FOR PHASED DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS, DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND GUB PERFORMANCE IN UTILIZING THEM, CONTAINS SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO REVIEW THESE ARRANGEMENTS IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

5. ACCORDINGLY, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INSERT THE PHRASE "SIX UH-1H (BELL 205A) HELICOPTERS AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$3.6 MILLION" AT APPROPRIATE PLACE IN TEXT OF AGREEMENT, CHANGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS RECOMMENDED AND THEN SEEK EARLY EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

6. REQUEST YOUR ADVICE IN CONSULTATION WITH GUB ON PREFERRED PRESS RELEASE OR OTHER MEANS OF HANDLING PUBLICITY ANGLE.

7. FOR BANGKOK. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM RTG OF

BURMA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND SUGGEST THAT YOU LIMIT DISCLOSING DETAILS OF AGREEMENT TO OUR CURRENT OFFER OF SIX CONFIDENTIAL

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HELICOPTERS AND THE PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AT LATER DATE DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. UNQUOTE SISCO

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